upto Rs. 10,000i- Margin Money I Loan from the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporaiion upto Rs. 7500/- and Loan from the Banks to an extent Rs. 32,500]

(v) During 1991-92 Rs. 50.50 crores were released to StatesjU. T.s. For 1992-93 a provision of lis. 60 crores has been made in the budget. As on 26th February, 1993 number of scavengers so far surveyed stood tentatively at 459468. This includes 10 States where survey has been completed and the other states where the survey is in progress.

(vi) The scheme? also provides for a Central Monitoring Committee, State and District Level Committees.

(vii) Wini a view to review the execution of the scheme, the .strategy and approach was discussed with the Ministers and Secretaries of Welfare De-pavtmens of Southern Region ai Trivandrum on August 28 & 29, 1992, Western Region on September 24, 20 1992 at Bombay and Ministers of all the States Ts, Secretaries of Scheduled Caste Development and Mayors of Municipal Corporations at New Delhi on September 18-19. 1992.

(viii) The Government is finalis ing a proposal to set UP a Commission on Safai Karamcharis shortly.

2. Survey has been completed in ten States namely AP, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K. Kerala, MP Rajasthan: UP and Tamil Nadu while it is in progress in the remaining States and Union Territories ,

The scheme of providing wheel barrows to the scavengers was discontinued from fifth Five Year Plan as it was not found convenient by female scavengers due to heavy load resulting in strenuous pulling lack of parking places, difficulty in repair and maintenance and their non-pliability in narrow lanes and on uneven roadssurfaces.

NRIs Investment in Housing Schemes

171. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated a scheme to attract Non-ftesident Indians investment in housing and the related sector.

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether any encouraging signs have been noticed from the NRI's; and

*(a) if s*o, the details thereof and by v, iiun the scheme is likely to be im-p lemented'.'

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). In line with the general policy for encouraging NRI investment in various sectors, Government have formulated a scheme to attract NRI investment in housing and real estate development. The broad details of the scheme are given in the Staement (See below).

(c) and (d) The scheme has only recently been finalised and circulated among the State Governments! Union Territory Administrations for implementation. It is too early to assess the impact of the scheme.

Statement

Broad details of the Scheme for NRI investment hi Housing and Real Estate Development.

(i) The scheme will cover investment by NRIs with foreign citizenship and Indian passports in housing and real estate ventures, housing finance institutions, building material unfits etc. in terms of existing invest-

ment guidelines. It will also make it easier and attractive for intending NRIs in various countries to acquire, rent gift property and reside in housing colonies in different cities so long as they make payments in foreign exchange. They can repatriate original investment after minimum initial lock in period of three years. Repatriation of income and dividends after taxation in respect of manufacture of building materials, participatory ventures in real estate and in housing finance instiutions will be permitted through enabling notifications by Reserve Bank of India.

(ii) A Nodal Cell has been set up in National Housing Bank for coordinating decisions on policies and procedures relating to NRI investment with representation of all concerned agencies and nominess of State Government. This will be supervised by Ministry of Urban Development.

(iii) A joint sector Rating Agency will be set up to grant approved status/accreditation to public and private builders conforming to established criteria.

• (iv) On the strength of the approved status of builders> necessary clearances in respect of the builder's project will be given for the construction and provision of services at the local level by State and city agencies.

(v) Upto 5 percent of sale proceeds in each scheme subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs exclusive of the foreign exchange for travel and advertisement will be released in foreign exchange to the builders towards expenses for marketing the houses including payment of commissions and promotion of schemes on an international basis.

(vi) Non Residents Indians' are also permitted to acquire, hold, transfer or dispose of properties by way of sale or inheritance, provided where

properties are acquired toy purchases, Lhey are for toonafide residential purpose of purchasers and the sale consideration is met out of foreign exchange. They will also be permitted ID let out the properties on rent.

(vii) Gifting of properties by NRIs to relatives will be freely permitted subject to taxation without the requirements of prior permission. NRIs can acquire upto two houses provided the purchase is effected with foreign exchange.

(viii) The required permission for purchase of the house under Section 269 UC of Income Tax Act will be given by *the* Income *Tax* Department within 15 days to 30 days.

Proposal ot set up a Central University at Silchar

* 172. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Central University at Silchar; and

(b) if so, by when a bill to that effect is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Legislation for the establishment of a Central University at Silchar in Assam was enacted in May,1989.

Funding Pattern for Total Literacy Campaign

*173. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT *be* pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of funding pattern between the Central and the State Governments for the total literacy campaign for the years 1991-92 and 1992-93;